

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 03871 131944Z
ACTION EUR-12

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-----131956Z 108412 /66
P 131937Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3461

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 03871

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, PLOS, CA
SUBJECT: REPRESENTATIONS TO GOC ON MACHIAS SEAL ISLAND
BUOY

REF: VINE/DUEMLING AND ROUSE/DUEMLING TELECONS OF MAY 12

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENT'S TELEPHONIC INSTRUCTIONS (REFS), AMBASSADOR TELEPHONED EXTAFF ACTING UNDER-SECRETARY PETER TOWE (MINISTER JAMIESON BEING OUT OF COUNTRY) TO REINFORCE REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY VINE TO TURNER IN WASHINGTON ON MAY 12 CONCERNING GOC INTENTIONS TO PLACE NAVIGATIONAL BUOY NEAR MACHIAS SEAL ISLAND. AMBASSADOR ADVANCED POINTS PROVIDED BY DEPARTMENT WITH RESPECT TO CONTESTED SOVEREIGNTY, NEED FOR MUTUAL COOPERATION AND FOREBEARANCE, AND AVOIDANCE OF ANY UNILATERAL ACTIONS WHICH COULD FURTHER COMPLICATE PENDING NEGOTIATIONS ON GULF OF MAINE ISSUES. TOWE TOOK NOTE OF REPRESENTATIONS BUT, HAVING JUST RETURNED FROM EUROPE, WAS UNINFORMED ON ISSUE. HE PROMISED RESPONSE ASAP.

2. TOWE SUBSEQUENTLY CALLED DCM (IN TEMPORARY ABSENCE OF AMBASSADOR) AND MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:
(A) GOC HAD RECEIVED NO RESPONSE TO ITS MAY 6 NOTE DELIVERED IN WASHINGTON.

(B) MEANWHILE, GOC HAD STUDIED QUESTION OF ADVISABILITY
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OF NEW NAVIGATIONAL AID AND, AFTER THREE DAYS SURFACE INVESTIGATION OF AREA BY CANADIAN COAST GUARD, CONCLUDED THAT NEW BUOY WOULD IN FACT BE DESIRABLE.

(C) THESE INVESTIGATIONS ELIMINATED ANY NECESSITY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION FROM U.S. SIDE.

(D) U.S. MAY HAVE INFERRED FROM TEXT OF MAY 6 NOTE THAT GOC WAS ACTIVELY SOLICITING FURTHER INFORMATION FROM U.S., BUT GOC DETERMINED THAT THIS WAS UNNECESSARY.

(E) GOC MADE JUDGMENT THAT, TO ASSURE NO PREJUDICE TO ITS OWN CLAIM OF SOVEREIGNTY, IT SHOULD PROCEED WITH PLACEMENT OF CANADIAN BUOY, AND IT INTENDED TO COMPLETE PLACEMENT BY 1930 ON MAY 12.

3. DCM RESPONDED THAT:

(A) TURNER, IN PRESENTING GOC NOTE ON MAY 6, HAD ORALLY REAFFIRMED REQUEST CONTAINED IN NOTE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION FROM USG.

(B) IN RECEIVING NOTE, VINE HAD REJECTED CANADIAN CLAIM TO SOVEREIGNTY, INDICATED USG WOULD FORMALLY RESPOND TO CANADIAN NOTE, AND SPECIFICALLY PROMISED TO PROVIDE THE FURTHER INFORMATION REQUESTED BY TURNER.

(C) USG IS DEEPLY CONCERNED BY GOC UNILATERAL ACTION, WHICH CANNOT HELP BUT HAVE UNFORTUNATE INFLUENCE ON MUTUALLY DESIRED EARLY RESOLUTION OF GULF OF MAINE ISSUES.

4. IN CLOSING CONVERSATION, TOWE REITERATED GOC APPREHENSION THAT USG, BY FORMALLY RAISING ISSUE OF NAVIGATIONAL AID, WAS INDICATING INTENTION TO POSITION ITS OWN BUOY IN THE AREA. GOC THEREFORE CONCLUDED THAT IT MUST TAKE ACTION TO PRECLUDE ANY EROSION OF ITS CLAIM TO SOVEREIGNTY
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IN MACHIAS SEAL ISLAND AREA. ENDERS

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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